

March 25, 1991

CONFERENCE CALL

MINUTES

Commission members present:

Lorna Stickel  
Cliff Bentz  
Hadley Akins  
Jim Howland  
Roger Bachman

Absent:

Mike Jewett

Staff present:

Bill Young  
Bev Hayes  
Jan Shaw  
John Borden  
Becky Kreag  
Tom Paul  
Steve Applegate  
Bud Bartels  
Barry Norris

The staff reports presented at this meeting, which contain the Director's recommendations mentioned in these minutes, are on file in the Office of the Director of the Water Resources Department, 3850 Portland Road, NE, Salem, Oregon. Written information submitted at this meeting is hereby made a part of this record and is on file at the above address. Audiocassette recording tapes of the meeting are also on file in the Water Resources Department office.

1. Legislation: Bev Hayes reviewed the latest activity at the Legislature.

She reported that last week the Senate Water Policy Committee heard one of the Department's bills from the House side (HB 2188) which would allow the Department to consider electronic records as records of the Department. Testimony went well, but they did not act on the bill that day.

On Thursday, another bill the Committee heard was a fish bill which the agency is not tracking. SB 240 was also considered the same day. The Department is still in negotiation on added language on this bill.

On the House side last week, Hayes reported that the committee heard only one bill on Thursday, which was Rep. Norris's storage bill (HB 3373). It is uncertain which bills the Senate Committee

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will consider this week. They may hear Sen. Kintigh's bill (SB 1023) and the one introduced by Sen. Kitzhaber (SB 742) which would allow individuals to consolidate up to five appropriations under one permit for certain impoundments. This may cause some problems for the agency, Hayes said. The bill will probably come up for consideration next week.

The Department expects the committee to take up the agency's hydroelectric fee bill tomorrow.

On the House side, Hayes reported that on Tuesday, the committee will be dealing with two fish screening bills. They will also consider HB 2926, which allows irrigation districts to provide water for domestic, municipal and industrial purposes. On Thursday, the committee will hear two bills sponsored by committee members and HB 2909, which would decrease some of the agency's fees.

The Department's budget is scheduled for Friday before the Ways & Means subcommittee.

2. Drought: Barry Norris reported that the Drought Council met twice last week, once with legislators. Lake, Crook and Deschutes Counties have requested declarations of drought so that they would be eligible for emergency assistance and diversions of water.

Most of the state will experience below-average water conditions this year, Norris said. If the current levels continue, the state will be dryer than in 1977.

At this last meeting, the Council decided to forward a recommendation to the Strategic Water Management Group that the Governor declare a drought for the three counties that requested it. Also, the southwest part of the state--Douglas, Curry, Jackson and Josephine Counties--should be considered for that same declaration should they make the request.

In addition to those recommendations, Barry said, the WRC could consider directing state agencies and local jurisdictions to begin preparing conservation or curtailment plans.

The Commission took no formal action on this matter.